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THE TCL LETTER

SPRING 2011

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE FOUNDERS AND BUILDERS OF ISRAEL-ONLINE

BY MICHOEL RONN, MLIS

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In December 2010, after almost four years of effort, Touro College Libraries announced the completion of its digitization of David Tidhar's 19-volume *Encyclopedia of the Founders and Builders of Israel*, which can be found at www.tidhar.tourolib.org.

cance of the project," which has already attracted over 30,000 hits and steadily receives about 250 hits a day. As it is a Hebrew-language database, it is unsurprisingly mainly used in Israel, though it is being used throughout the world—including most

be a great resource for genealogical research. Once I had a chance to look at it myself and saw the unusual level of detail in the articles, I realized what a valuable tool it could be if all 19 volumes were digitized.

My strong desire to see a



Several subjects of Tidhar's *Encyclopedia of the Founders and Builders of Israel* are featured in the site banner at www.tidhar.tourolib.org.

VISIT US AT:

[HTTP://WWW.TOURLIB.ORG/](http://www.tourolib.org/)

[HTTP://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TOURLIBRARIES/](http://www.facebook.com/tourolibraries/)

[HTTP://TWITTER.COM/TOURLIBRARIES](http://twitter.com/tourolibraries)



Compiled over 23 years (1947-1970) the Encyclopedia contains some 6,000 biographies. Not only has Touro's digitization been well-received by scholars and laymen alike, but it has gathered accolades in newspapers, journals, blogs, Ezines, and listservs. The Israeli daily newspaper *Haaretz* wrote, "It is difficult to overestimate the signifi-

countries in Europe.

This project began in 2000, when I first arrived at Touro. I was excited to see a number of volumes of Tidhar's *Encyclopedia* at the library of the Lander College for Women, then located on Lexington Ave. I had heard about Tidhar's work a few years earlier from my cousin, also a librarian, who found it to

fully searchable version even led me to contact Otzar Ha-Hochma, a proprietary firm that digitizes Hebrew rabbinical books as well as some history-related books, to see if they would consider digitizing Tidhar's work. A short while later, as Touro College Libraries was completing its

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FROM THE DIRECTOR...

BASHE SIMON



Bashe Simon, MLS,
is the Director of
Touro College
Libraries.

Welcome to the spring 2011 issue of the TCL Letter. Spring is the perfect time for new beginnings and the TC Libraries are no exception. We wish to welcome our new staff members, Lindsey Schriftman (librarian, Miami Beach), Victoria Reyz (part-time Technical & Electronic Services assistant), and Pedro Zamoszczyk (library assistant, Kings Highway) to the staff and hope that their “new beginnings” will be successful.

Our newly designed library homepage features a “search box” to allow for quicker and smoother searches. Kudos to the Web Redesign Committee who created the page. The committee is

comprised of following library staff members: Michael Ronn, Yitzchak Schaffer, Salvatore Russo, Sara Tabaei, and Carol Schapiro.

The library, under the supervision of Information Literacy Services Director Sara Tabaei, has developed a new Faculty Publications database. Created by our Library Systems staff, Liping Ren and Yitzchak Schaffer, it has grown tremendously from its inception and now includes approximately 1,500 entries in 20 subject areas. We are proud to host this database of works published by Touro faculty and look forward to expanding its scope.

New student tutorials have been posted, including our very first webinar. Bay Shore Librarian Jaime Luise conducted a “Health Sciences Resources Tutorial” webinar, which has been posted under Services for Students. Sara Tabaei has also posted tutorials in peer review, plagiarism and APA citation. We look forward to providing additional tutorial webinars in the future.

In December the new Library User Satisfaction Survey was posted. I wish to thank the over 240 students and faculty members who participated in the sur-

TOURO COLLEGE LIBRARIES HIGHLIGHTS:

- **MORE USER-FRIENDLY WEB SITE HOME PAGE**
- **UNIFIED, SINGLE-TABBED WEB SEARCHING**
- **TIDHAR ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE FOUNDERS OF ISRAEL**

vey. Following is a brief summary of the major findings of this survey: library materials generally meet course needs. Most students visit the library to use our online databases. Contrary to popular opinion, most of our students begin their research using the Library website as opposed to search engines. Over 60% felt that the Library met their expectations. We are actively pursuing solutions to the suggestions for improvements that were made. In conclusion, thank you again for participating in the survey.

The highly qualified staff members of the Touro College Libraries look forward to assisting you in your research and studies. Have a wonderful summer.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Information Literacy Services Director Sara Tabaei has won an Excellence Award for her photography in COLOR magazine’s Portfolio Contest 2010. Sara’s portfolio was one of 15 winners chosen from a total of 494 entries, comprising 9,000 images. Selections from her portfolio were published in Special Issue 10 of COLOR magazine (September 2010).

NEW ONLINE RESOURCES

AccessMedicine from McGraw-Hill is an innovative online resource that provides more than 50 leading medical texts, over 25,000 images, videos and audio, USMLE-formatted questions, a self-assessment feature, diagnostic tools, clinical cases, etc.

COTAR is a Hebrew-language database containing over 10,000 full-text articles from hundreds of Jewish periodicals and Torah sources.

Essential Evidence Plus, now available to Touro Physician's Assistant program students, is written by leading physicians and features more than 700 topics covering the most common conditions, diseases, and procedures.

SmallBusinessSchool.org contains video, transcript, and analysis of over 200 episodes of Small Business School, a weekly, half-hour television show airing since 1994 on PBS-member stations and Cable television.

**THESE ONLINE RESOURCES
AND
OTHERS MAY BE ACCESSED
AT**

**HTTPS://
ERMS.TOUROLIB.ORG/**

**VISIT THIS LINK TO RE-
QUEST A USER NAME AND
PASSWORD**

QUICKSEARCH AND SERIAL SOLUTIONS SUMMON

BY YITZCHAK SCHAFFER, MLS

This December, the Libraries were thrilled to release a redesign of our homepage. This redesign features a new search interface which brings together several possibilities in searching our collections.

Until now, searching our collections required linking from our site to one of several specialized search pages, such as the catalog, Central Search, or eJournals. Databases could also be selected on a separate page. In order to facilitate finding resources, and to unify the search experience, we have brought all our search options together in a single tabbed search tool on our homepage. Within these tabs, it is possible to begin a search in the catalog or eJournals, or to view databases available in a given subject area.

Most notable in the redesign, however, is the new QuickSearch function. QuickSearch is our implementation of Serials Solutions's Summon product, created to address what studies have shown is a fundamental barrier between libraries and users: the lack of an easy and fast starting point for research. Using QuickSearch, it is possible to initiate a single search, and receive results from all types of resources together: journal articles, electronic and print books, and more.

One of the key attributes that differentiates this service from other tools is that it is the only solution that has a comprehensive single unified index that enables sub-second searches. Summon goes beyond federated search like Central Search by providing one search box, one results screen and access to the breadth of library content. Results from



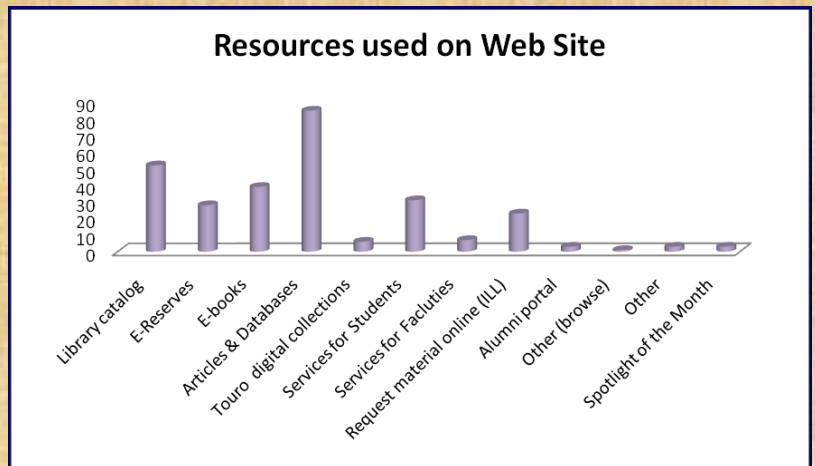
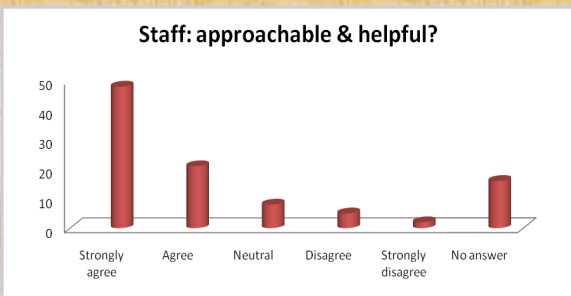
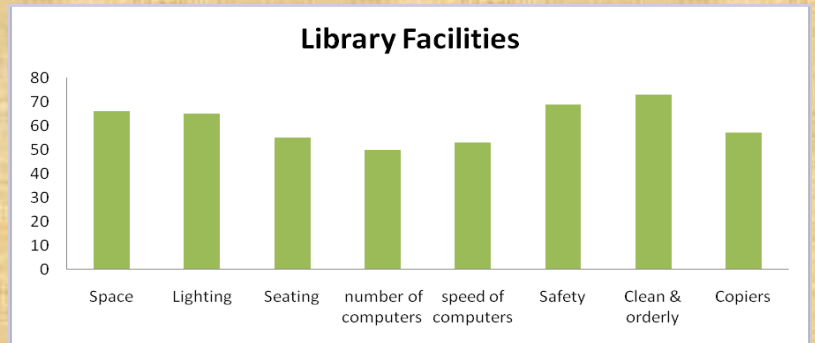
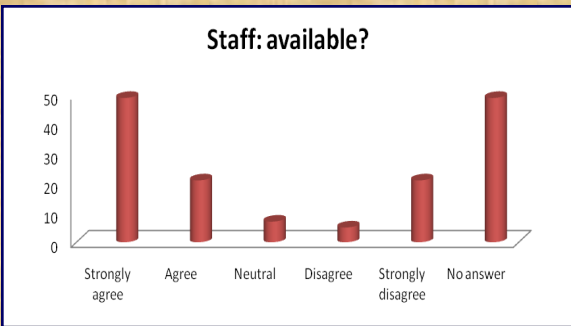
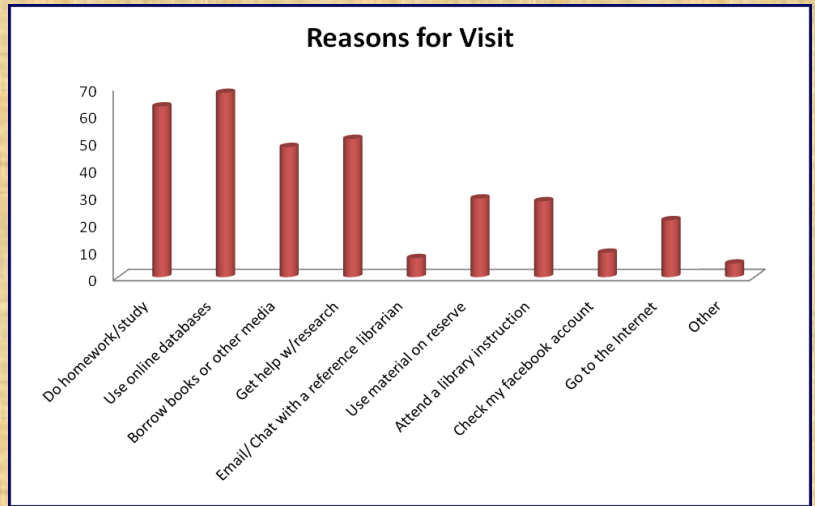
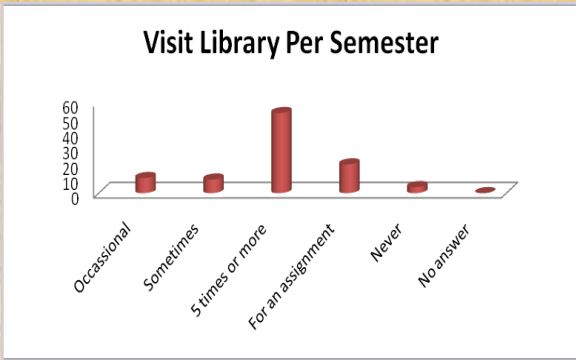
**Yitzchak Schaffer, MLS, is
Systems Manager for the
Touro College Libraries**

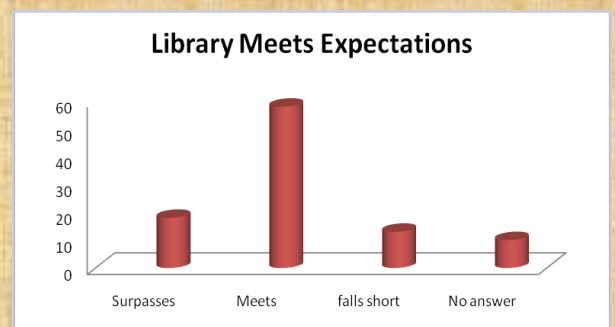
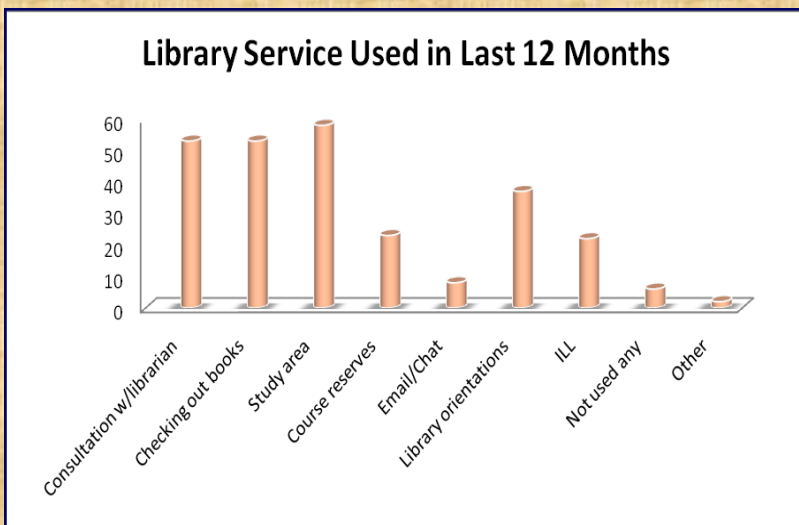
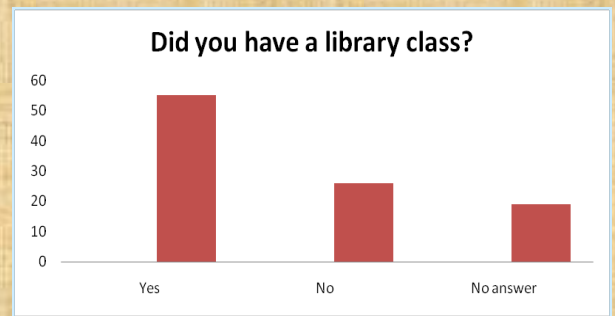
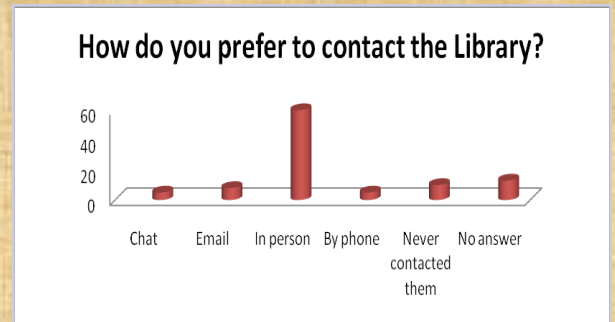
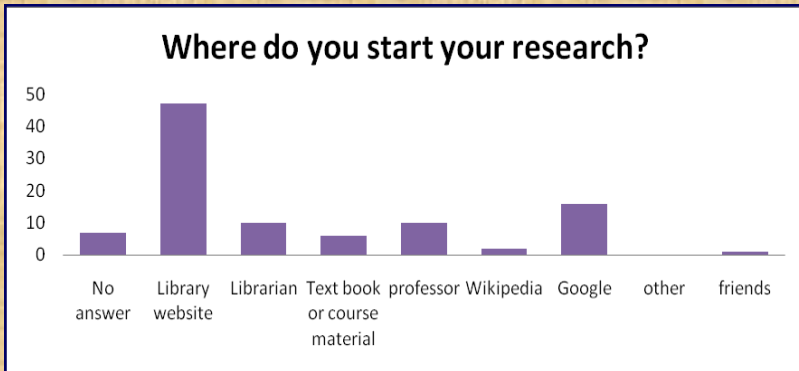
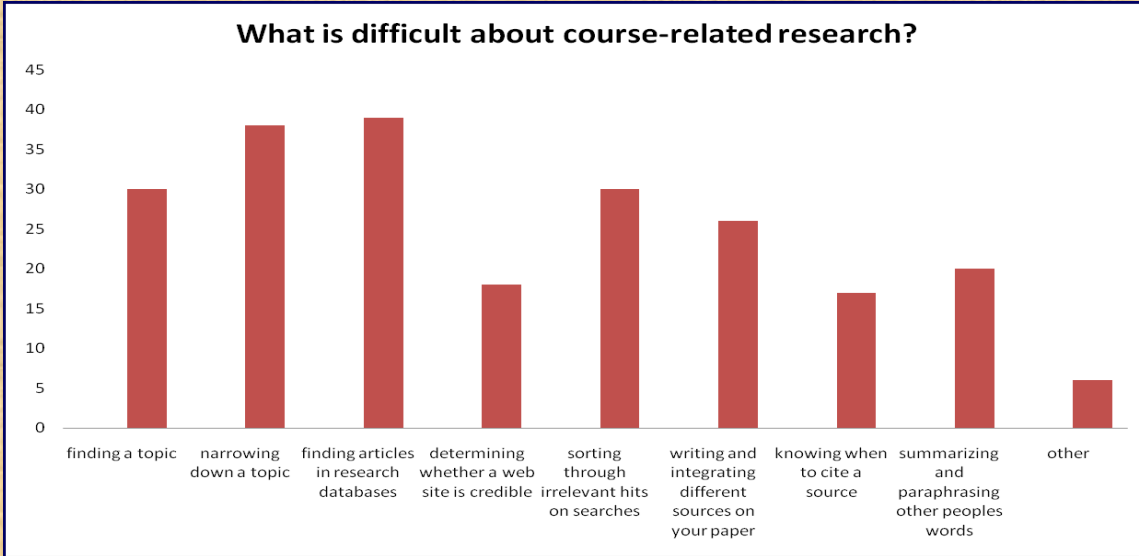
a Summon search are content neutral, based only on relevancy and never impacted by the searcher's technological expertise.

We are excited to offer these improvements to our search services, and hope that you, the users, will find them useful, and continue providing feedback so that we can continue to build services that will meet your needs.

LIBRARY USER SATISFACTION SURVEY FALL 2010: SUMMARY OF RESULTS

A survey to assess Touro College faculty and student satisfaction with the libraries was conducted for one month in December 2010. The survey was conducted using a web-based instrument accessed from the Library’s homepage. In total, the library received 240 complete responses. Following is a brief summary of the major findings of this survey, which will be used to evaluate and improve our services and resources. Some of the results are presented in graph format for better illustrative purposes. Overall, indicators of satisfaction with library services, resources, and staff were favorable, as shown below:





TOURO COLLEGE LIBRARIES PRESENT HEALTH SCIENCES WEBINAR

BY JAMIE LUISE, MLS

Last February, Touro College Libraries were proud to present our first webinar, for the students of the School of Health Sciences. A webinar (short for web-based seminar) is a presentation, lecture, workshop or seminar that is transmitted over the web. Webinars have become particularly popular due to their convenience for both participants and trainers. Webinars can be conducted for a live audience in which the presenter interacts with the participants, provides visual and audio information and answers questions via the Chat feature available to the audience. When a live webinar is impossible, a recorded session becomes handy. The

Touro College library is among the few libraries nationwide that has started posting their webinars online. Recorded webinars are also helpful to students who want to learn at their own pace or use it as a refresher for review.

Touro's Information Literacy Director Sara Tabaei helped edit the webinar and served as liaison with Touro's Academic Computing Department to coordinate the initial webinar time slot.

The Touro College Libraries is currently presenting such webinars every few weeks for our faculty and staff. Some of the webinars offered this semester include Google Scholar, Copyright and E-reserves, the new APA style, with many

more yet to come.

We hope to continue to find new ways of providing the Touro community with the best and most helpful services in support of our institutional mission and your educational goals. Check out our current offerings at: <http://www.tourolib.org/services/students>



Jamie Luise, MLS, is a Librarian at the School of Health Sciences in Bay Shore.

Library User Satisfaction Survey Fall 2010 *(Continued from Page 5)*

The survey results enable us to plan and develop our collections and services more effectively to meet the Touro community research and library needs. One of the most repeated concerns voiced in the comment is the need for up-to-date and faster computers. The good news is that new computers have arrived and will be fully installed in most libraries by the end of the 2011 spring semester. Another concern brought up in this survey was that finding library material via the library website is complicated. Again we listened to your concerns and we have constructed a new homepage which is more user-friendly and accessible (see *"Quicksearch and Serial Solutions Summon"* on page 3).

In conclusion, we want to thank you for all the praise that the Library has received in the survey from students and faculty alike, with a few sample comments appearing below:

"When I need an answer, I can count on the librarians"

"A comfortable and inviting environment"

"[Staff] are friendly and ready to help however they can"

"The Library website helps a lot in writing a research paper"

"I liked the class orientation"



Sara Tabaei, MLIS, is the Information Literacy Services Director at Touro College.

For questions regarding the content of the survey, please contact Sara Tabaei:

212-463-0400 ext. 5233 or
sara.tabaei@touro.edu

The Encyclopedia of the Founders and Builders of Israel-Online (Continued from Page 1)

audio digitization of the broadcasts of the Jewish People's University of the Air, the former Director of Touro Libraries, Dr. Jacqueline Maxin, asked me to suggest another digitization project. Suddenly, it dawned on me the Libraries could digitize Tidhar's work without the involvement of outside firms. I suggested this to Dr. Maxin and added



David Tidhar with volumes of his Encyclopedia

that I might be able to obtain the online rights since my father and Tidhar's son Bezael were friends from their days in the Israeli Air Force. Dr. Maxin fully supported the project. After discussing the proposal with our systems librarian, Yitzchak Schaffer, he agreed with Dr. Maxin and me. Yitzchak later proved to be the mastermind behind programming for the website.

I contacted Bezael Tidhar, who was greatly interested in the project, and suggested that I negotiate the details

with his son-in-law, Gal Almog. Having had websites created for his own businesses, Gal was able to make valuable contributions regarding the appearance of our website. Later, Gal Almog informed us that Otzar HaHochma had contacted him and that he had only given them limited permission to digitize. Of course, if Otzar HaHochma

alone had digitized Tidhar's work, it would not have been freely accessible to the public, and certainly would not have the specialized indexing and tailor-made additional search features available on our website. It was an unusual privilege to be able to obtain the rights to a work of this magnitude, and, thank G-d, we had started just in time.

We started our "Tidhar Project," as it came to be called, by first procuring a complete set of all 19 volumes of the *Encyclopedia* from a used book dealer

in Israel. We then chose OCLC Preservation Service Center (PSC) to perform scanning and optical character recognition (OCR) of the pages. PSC, which has since been acquired by Backstage Library Works, subcontracted the OCR to Imagestore. After an unsuccessful attempt to use OCLC's CONTENTdm software to present the electronic version, we switched to the open-source Greenstone Digital Library. Because Greenstone's web design capabilities are limited, Yitzchak Schaffer created EmeraldView, a new frontend which takes advantage of current web development and design practices.

On December 19th, 2010, we debuted our completed website. Within several weeks it was fully indexed by Google, which is currently the source of 65% of traffic to our site. We have made a number of improvements since the debut, including page navigation across volumes and linking the cross-references of the original text. We hope to release additional digitization projects in the future to complement our Tidhar Project.



Michael Ronn, MLIS, is the Associate Director of Touro College Libraries.